

Indiana Archaeology Month

September 2005 marks the 10th anniversary of a statewide celebration and recognition of the science of archaeology in Indiana. Begun in 1996 as Indiana Archaeology Week, the event quickly grew within the following years to a full month of activities and outreach. Each year's successes have built upon the last, and the events which are held all around the state have reached literally thousands of people through the years. The Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology (DHPA), office of the Indiana State Archaeologist, is proud to have coordinated these efforts each year. Archaeology is a critical component of our office's outreach efforts, and there is strong continued public interest in what can be learned through archaeology about the past.

The "theme" or focus for this year's Archaeology Month harkens back to the early archaeologists and other individuals who worked here to preserve critical information: **"A Decade of Celebration ~ Centuries of Discovery."** Without the efforts of early "pioneers" in archaeology, the science would not be what it is today, and we owe them a great deal of thanks. So, in commemoration of a decade of marking the contributions of archaeology to our state, it is fitting that we look to the past in order to understand the future. We have had ten years of September celebrations of archaeology, but we've had centuries of important investigations and discoveries!

This year's commemorative poster and t-shirt were designed by Laurie Wurster and printed by M. Nelson & Associates of Indianapolis, Indiana. Laurie states that the designs were inspired by this year's theme. The use of a timeline and photographs depict key events and influential individuals in Indiana's archaeological history. Both the poster and t-shirt designs travel through time depicting snapshots of events in Indiana archaeology.

As discussed above, the design of the poster is meant to show just a sampling of some of the early archaeological investigations, as well as archaeologists. There were obviously many more than could be included on the poster. Our Archaeology Month webpage (www.IN.gov/dnr/historic/archeomonth.html) will have an area including additional, expanded, information on other early pioneers in archaeology.

What follows is an explanation of the poster's images, from left to right:

- Charles Alexander Lesueur, a French naturalist and artist, conducted the first archaeological excavations in our state. The bottom left image shows his notes in French from 1828 and his rendering of prehistoric pottery at this important southern Indiana site.
- In later years, official state geological surveys sometimes included discussions about archaeological sites and features. These descriptions and information are still important today. The illustrations of artifacts are from an 1874 geological survey report, and the background image of the entire poster is from an 1879 geological survey report.
- In the early twentieth century, archaeological investigations were being conducted at various locations around the state. The following photo, as well as the one below it, is typical of views of excavations at mound and earthwork sites during those times.
- Two of the early pioneers of archaeology in our state were Warren K. Moorehead and E.Y. Guernsey. They are shown in 1931 in southern Indiana looking for

archaeological sites to be investigated. Their styles of clothing were typical of the time period, and amazingly, also sometimes typical for the archaeologists of the day!

- Dr. James H. Kellar is shown at an archaeological investigation in the late 40s. Dr. Kellar, later the first director of the Glenn A. Black Laboratory of Archaeology at Indiana University, was involved in many important archaeological projects.
- Glenn A. Black, for whom the laboratory mentioned above was named, was a pioneering figure in Indiana archaeology. He is shown working on a map for the well-known publication titled “Angel Site, An Archaeological, Historical, and Ethnological Study” published in 1967.
- Eli Lilly, founder of the Eli Lilly Pharmaceutical Company, is shown taking a soil sample at the Angel Mounds site, which he was instrumental in saving for the future. Mr. Lilly was keenly interested in archaeology, wrote important archaeological publications and supported archaeological and historic preservation projects for decades. His legacy to archaeology remains in many ways today.
- Women were involved in many of the early archaeological projects in our state, and obviously continue to be so in today’s archaeological community. Frances Martin is shown working in a rock shelter in the late 1950s. Preserving information from these types of resources is still important today.
- Laboratory work and all of the many types of analyses which must be conducted are critical parts of the archaeological process. Emily Blasingham is shown in her office working on Yankeetown prehistoric ceramic materials which were recovered from Indiana.

This year’s t-shirt design includes elements used in the poster, but also some additions. Lesueur’s illustration is shown, as well as an effigy pipe discovered at a southern Indiana site. Some typical artifacts which have been recovered were also added as images. The logos at the bottom of the shirt design also remind us that the National Park Service graciously provided the funds with which both the shirts and the posters were produced.

Indiana has a rich and varied archaeological heritage. Archaeological investigations are happening all around our state, and we hope that you enjoy the poster which highlights some of the many early important contributions to the science, as well as the t-shirts. Order forms for both products can be found at the official webpage, www.IN.gov/dnr/historic/archeomonth.html.

Images from:

Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology

Indiana Historical Bureau

Emily Blasingham

Glenn A. Black Laboratory of Archaeology, Indiana University

Museum, collection Lesueur, Le Havre, France

“Sixth Annual Report of the Geological Survey of Indiana” Cox (1875)

“Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Annual Reports of the Geological Survey of Indiana” Cox (1879)